

USPTO Customer No. 25280

Case No. 5635

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A fabric made by employing ~~containing~~ continuous filament non-textured yarn or fibers, said fabric being made by the process of:
comprising:
 - (a) providing a base portion, and
 - (b) providing a pile portion extending from the base portion,
 - (c) wherein said pile portion projects from said base portion, said pile portion comprising a plurality of tufts, at least some of said tufts consisting of groups of continuous filament non-textured fibers, said fibers comprising a partially oriented thermoplastic polymer, said tufts being arranged upon said base portion in rows,
 - (d) heating said tufts with the non-textured fibers to a temperature above the glass transition temperature of the fibers, thereby laterally blooming the tufts;
 - (e) -wherein said laterally bloomed-tufts provide a degree of surface coverage after the heating step (d) upon said base portion such that said rows when viewed from an edge perspective provide an average void area between each respective row of less than about 0.41 square millimeters at a fabric gauge of about 32 tufts per inch.
2. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said fibers are characterized by substantially uniform cross-sectional geometry along their length.
3. (Original) The fabric of claim 2, wherein said fiber cross-sectional aspect ratio is about 1.

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4. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said fiber cross-sectional aspect ratio is greater than 1.
5. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein the average amount of said average void area observed between said respective rows is equal to or less than about 0.35 square millimeters.
6. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said fibers are comprised of at least one material selected from the group consisting of: polyester, nylon and polypropylene.
7. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said fibers are heated and drawn simultaneously, said heating/drawing time being no greater than about 0.063 seconds.
8. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said fibers are heated and drawn simultaneously, said heating/drawing time being no greater than about 0.056 seconds.
9. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said fibers are heated and drawn simultaneously, said heating/drawing time being no greater than about 0.052 seconds.
10. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said fibers are heated and drawn simultaneously, said heating/drawing time being no greater than about 0.047 seconds.
11. (Original) The fabric of claim 1 wherein the average void area between rows is between about 0.21 and about 0.41 square millimeters.

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12. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein the average void area between rows is between about 0.21 and about 0.35 square millimeters.

13. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said fibers consist essentially of partially oriented polyester.

14. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 13, wherein said fibers of said fabric are heat shocked during drawing of said fibers at a temperature of greater than about 200 degrees Centigrade.

15-33. (Canceled)